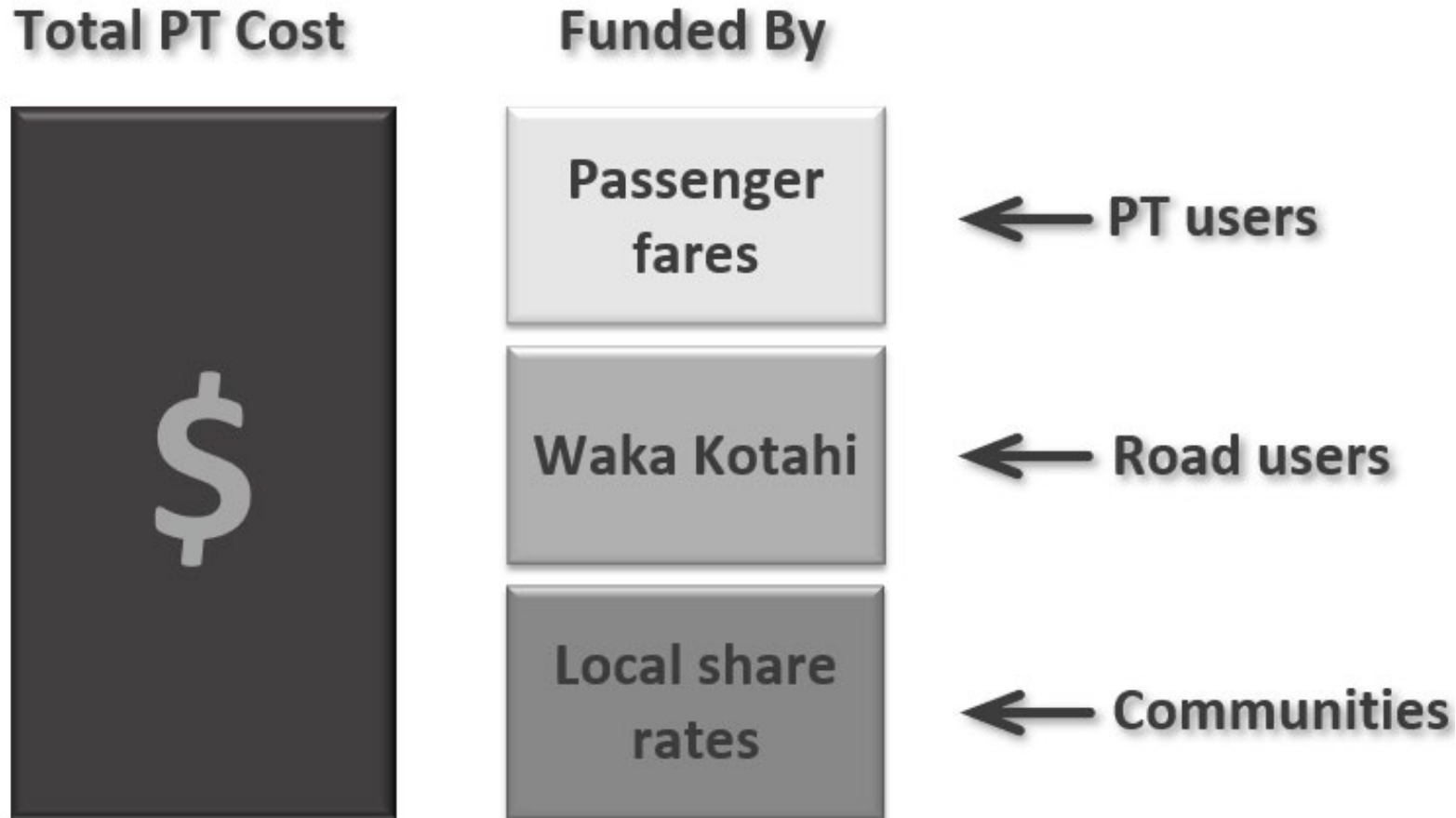


# Public Transport and the #44 Pokeno to Pukekohe Service

[waikatoregion.govt.nz](http://waikatoregion.govt.nz)

# How public transport is funded



# How the #44 service is contracted

- The #44 Pokeno to Pukekohe bus service launched in January 2021.
- This service is a **trial service**, which means that:
  - It requires an application to Waka Kotahi for funding every three years through the “low-cost low risk” (LCLR) funding programme
  - Ongoing funding is therefore not guaranteed
  - The service is funded 49% by WDC and 51% by Waka Kotahi
  - Any service enhancements are done in collaboration with Waka Kotahi and Waikato District Council
  - Waka Kotahi require the service to demonstrate good value-for-money prior to become a permanent service
- WRC have applied for this service to remain a trial through the next 2024-2027 LCLR programme.

# How the #44 service is designed and operated

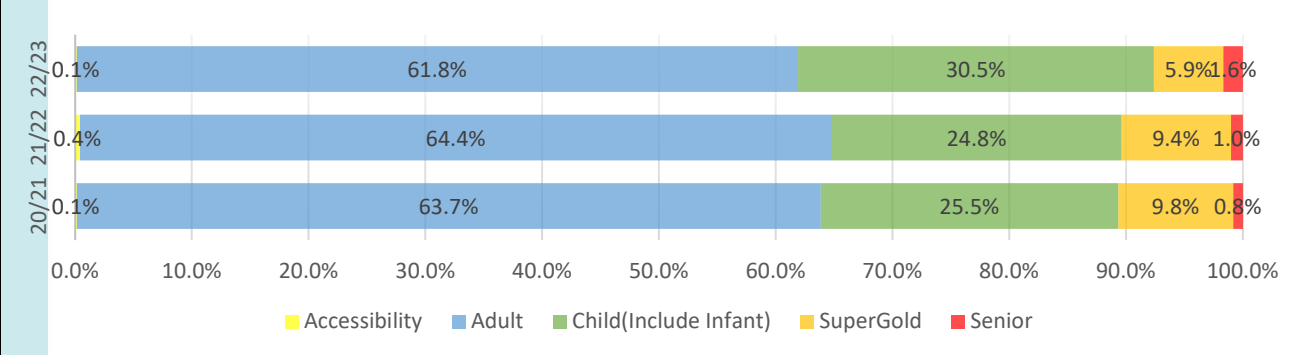
- The service was designed to enable improved connectivity between North Waikato (Tuakau/Pokeno) and South Auckland, and the key issues we are trying to address are:
  - 1) Reduce congestion on SH1/Southern Motorway (people living in Tuakau/Pokeno and travelling north for employment).
  - 2) Reduce reliance on private vehicles (particularly single occupancy vehicles)
  - 3) Encourage mode shift and provide travel options
  - 4) Align with the Pukekohe Rail Station times
- Two buses currently operate the service



# Results from our service review

- In September, WRC undertook a review of the #44 service. Some key insights were:

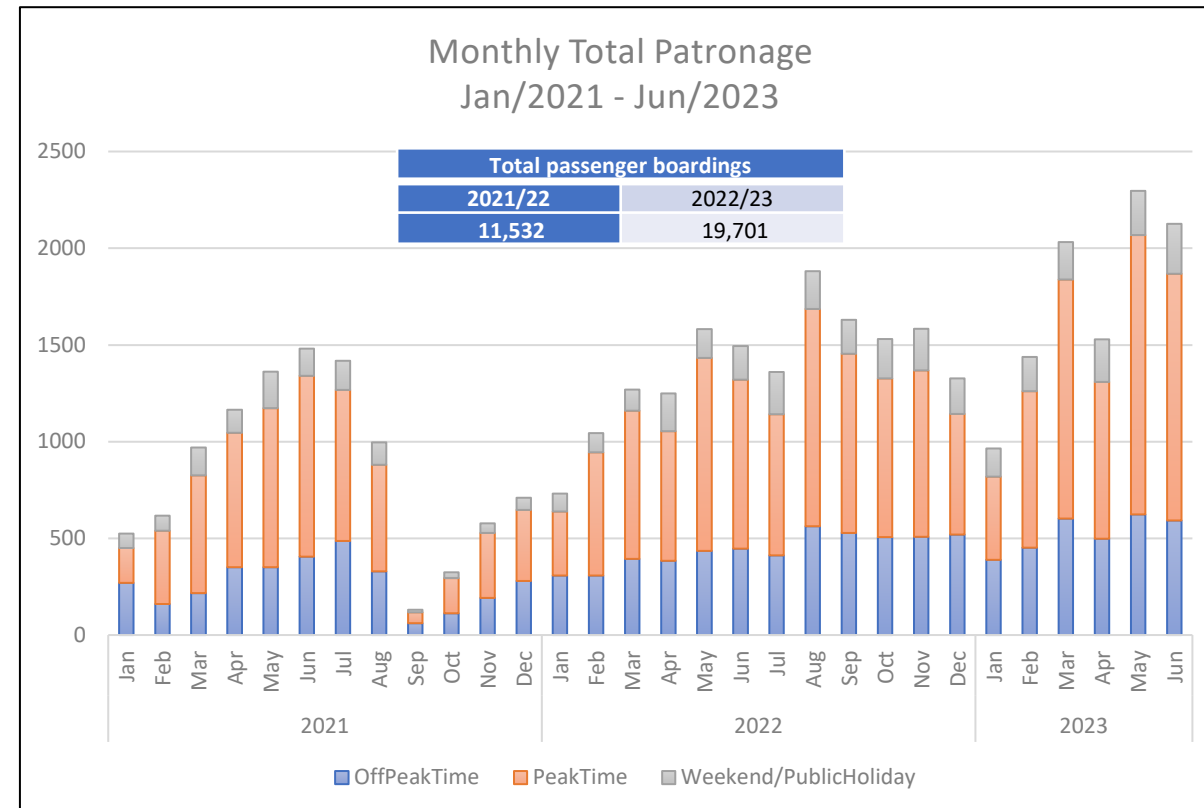
Ticket Type Proportion  
Jan/2021 - Jun/2023



Forecast vs actual fare revenue.

Forecast Fare Revenue (total cost \$'s)	Actual Fare Revenue (total cost \$'s)	
2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
\$ 27,089	\$ 18,933	\$ 23,687

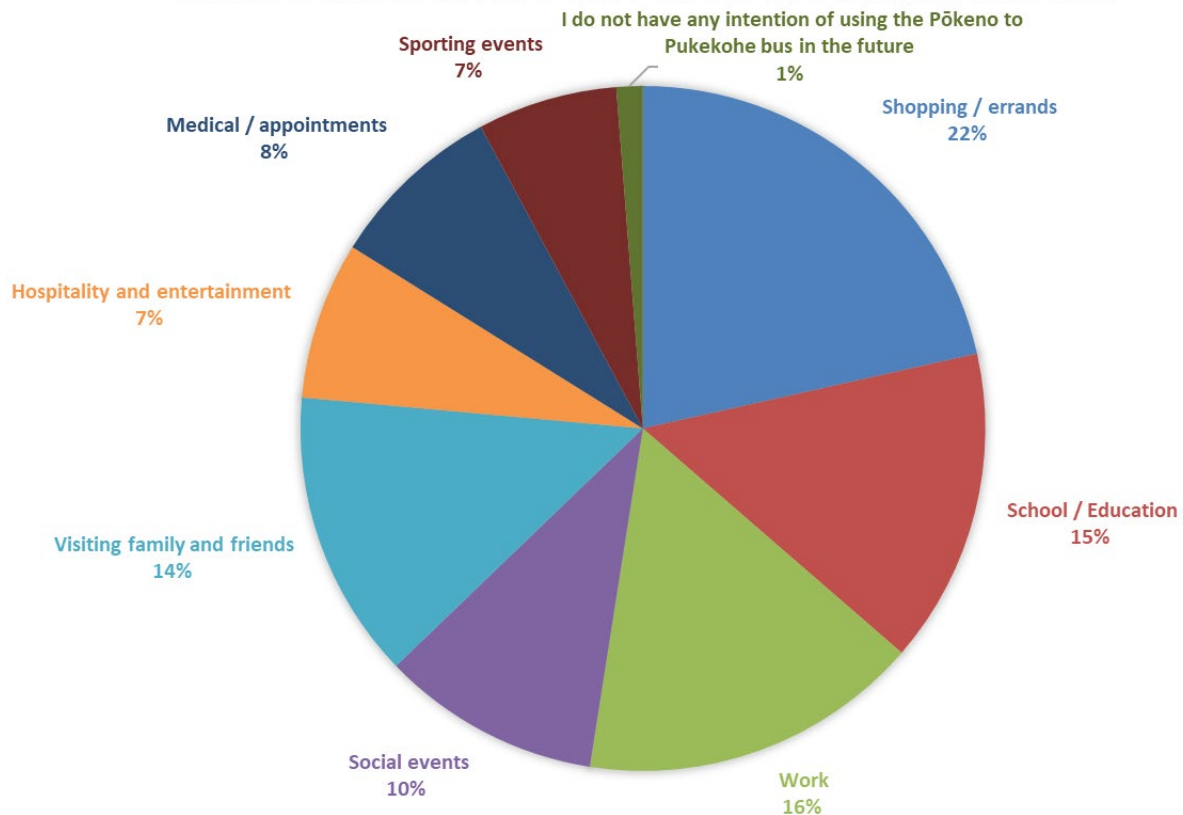
Monthly Total Patronage  
Jan/2021 - Jun/2023



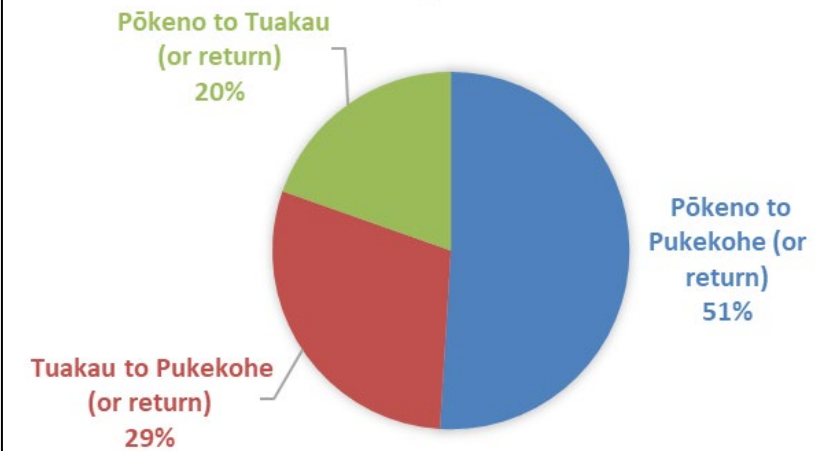
# Results from our customer satisfaction survey

- In September, WRC undertook their customer satisfaction survey for the #44 service. Some key insights were:

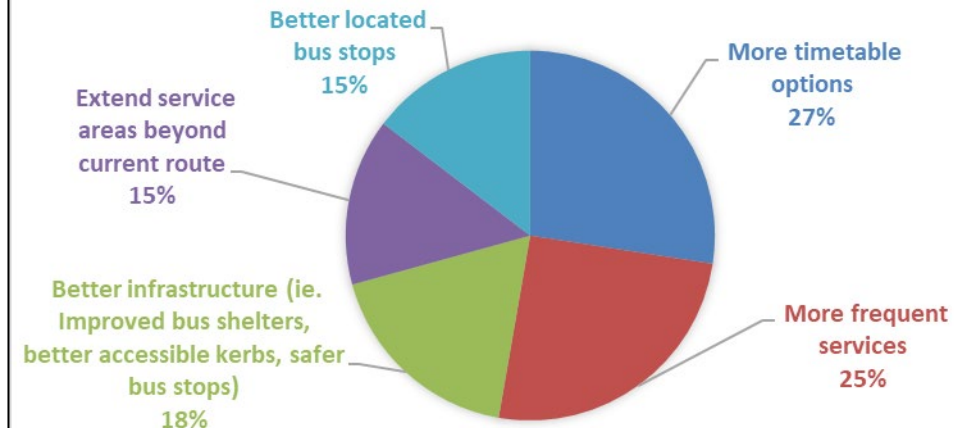
## WHICH REASONS DO YOU USE PŌKENO TO PUKEKOHE BUS FOR



## WHICH ROUTES DO YOU/WOULD YOU MOST FREQUENTLY USE?



## WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THE PŌKENO TO PUKEKOHE BUS MORE REGULARLY?



# Constraints to the #44 service

- WRC have found out last week that Waka Kotahi have agreed to continue their 49% funding for this service in the next LTP (2024-2027).
- Waka Kotahi have indicated to WRC that it is too soon in the service lifespan to justify significant service enhancements and costs (whether this be through new vehicles or higher frequency), particularly since patronage and performance of the service was not doing particularly well over its first 18 months. Funding from Waka Kotahi for any service change is therefore unlikely and it is not considered to be warranted to jeopardize our case for future funding by making any changes at this point in time.
- WRC's public transport is intended to meet all the needs of its users fairly and equitably, whether it be work commuters, social users, tertiary students or school children – as indicated by the data generated from the service already.

# WRC's input to MOE's funding review

WRC has provided consistent feedback and comments to MoE and Tuakau College during the review process about the #44 service limitations, key points included:

- The existing #44 bus service does not have capacity to accommodate all 315 students traveling from Pokeno to Tuakau College
  - To provide this level of transport, it would require 3 to 4 new buses (at approx. \$250k annually per bus)
- There are currently no plans to enhance the number of buses operating this service
- WRC could consider making minor tweaks to the existing timetable to better align with the Tuakau College school times, however, the current timetable has been primarily designed to align with the Pukekohe Rail Station times and there are other schools / destinations and commuters on the route which may indirectly be negatively affected by any changes.

WRC is in continuous dialogue with MoE and the Waikato District Council to monitor the effects of the changes to the school service.



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